

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 675

By Williams R

A RESOLUTION supporting the work and vision of International Justice Mission to end human slavery around the world, and recognizing October 1, 2014, as International Justice Mission Day.

WHEREAS, 29.8 million people are in some form of slavery today, such as commercial sexual exploitation, forced labor, child soldiers, and human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the second-most profitable global crime, generating \$32 billion in annual illicit profits; and

WHEREAS, four billion of the world's poorest people reside outside the protection of effective rule of law and instead are exploited due to ineffective, corrupt, and criminal public justice systems, experiencing a hidden plague of violence that includes police brutality, rape, illegal land seizure, trafficking, and more; and

WHEREAS, International Justice Mission (IJM), a global human rights agency and leader confronting these issues, works with local officials in eighteen communities throughout the developing world to secure immediate victim rescue and aftercare, to prosecute perpetrators, and to ensure that public justice systems – police, courts, and laws – effectively protect the poor from the everyday violence they face; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Tennessee and throughout the United States are looking for ways to invest and advocate in efforts that effectively stop violence against the poor, including human trafficking and forced labor slavery in the developing world; and

WHEREAS, IJM offers powerful, effective opportunities for Tennessee citizens and communities of faith to invest in and support their successful model, including advocacy, fundraising, volunteering, raising awareness, and artist partnerships; and

WHEREAS, many of the diverse, resourceful citizens that make Tennessee remarkable, including musicians, business owners, pastors, people of faith and conscience, Tennessee Titans football players, students, and many more, have already demonstrated their support for ending slavery and trafficking in the true spirit of the Volunteer State, and for IJM's work in particular; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the State of Tennessee hereby goes on record as supporting the work and vision of International Justice Mission (IJM) to successfully "rescue thousands, protect millions, and prove that justice for the poor is possible" and IJM's efforts to build a movement in Tennessee, the United States and globally that can end slavery, trafficking, and everyday violence faced by the poor in the 21st century through advocacy, giving and more.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Tennessee hereby recognizes and celebrates October 1, 2014, as "International Justice Mission Day".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Tennessee calls upon Tennessee's Congressional Representatives and Senators Corker and Alexander to use their voice and vote to support proven models to comprehensively eradicate slavery at home and abroad.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and to the Tennessee Delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives.